

# *Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DAD/CI

DATE: 4 November 1952

FROM : Chief, Soviet Division

SUBJECT: Comments on Outline of the Basic Intelligence Course

1. The course of study outlined in the attached description of the Basic Intelligence Course appears to be very comprehensive. Nevertheless, certain aspects of the outline give rise to questions, some of which in the final analysis may not be considered valid critical comments.

a. The outline does not indicate the relationship between the trainee and his future area assignment, especially as it may pertain to the preparation of the area study.

b. Oral presentation of the Area Study seems inadequate to do justice to a research project of the scope and type outlined. Furthermore, it appears that this presentation could well be merely a recital of facts abstracted from a completed intelligence publication concerning an area, and therefore not of great value to the trainee.

c. The subject "USSR and Communism" covers 33 1/3 percent of the lecture time and 40 percent of the discussion time. This appears to overbalance the course for two reasons: (1) it is likely to be very repetitious for the highly qualified trainee recruited for work on the Soviet Union; and (2) it occupies very large proportion of the total school time for other students.

d. In view of the exceptionally high caliber of personnel recruited for CIA, the basic intelligence subjects and orientation subjects may occupy too much time in the total program. For example, the subjects "The Types of Intelligence," "Introduction to the Principles and Methods of Intelligence," and "The Intelligence Process" all could be blended into a shorter, more concise course than that outlined. In the same way, subjects entitled "National Security Agencies," "The Role of Intelligence in Support of the Formulation and Execution of Foreign Policy," "CIA" and "The Intelligence Community" could probably be treated in a short, effective manner.

2. As stated previously, the course outline is very comprehensive; but consideration must also be given to critical comment of aspects of the course in addition to the actual subjects outlined. The students selected for this course are assumed to be highly qualified professional personnel. With this in mind, it is imperative that the course of instruction be geared qualitatively to the capabilities of the students.

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Acting Chief, Soviet Division